

23 Sept 1968

Harold:

Enclosed are ^a ~~copies~~ of a recent letter from Sprague and a portion of a letter from Murr concerning the False Ray.

I am somewhat confused concerning who knows what. No matter: Sprague still seems the chief repository of information on the Ray case, and I shall continue to tell you and him all that I know.

I suspect that Gough is holding out on Sprague ~~regarding~~ regarding his interviews with Toronto witnesses who saw Toronto Ray. Perhaps he wants to let his info hang-fire until he can gain publicity for his committee. If that's the case he's a damned fool, for he is keeping us guessing about the matter like the blind men feeling the elephant.

I recommended to Sprague that if he has sufficient evidence, he should try to persuade Ralph Abernathy, King's successor in the SCLC, that Memphis Ray is probably innocent. Hopefully, then, Abernathy could publicly disclose that he does not believe Ray killed King. The effect of such a revelation from Abernathy would be tremendous, on both blacks and whites. Best of all, the press cannot ignore the issue, and dare not ridicule it.

I want to keep Dawnay (ergo Joesten) in the dark for a while concerning Beckham. Therefore I intend to apply to him the pseudonym "Buzzer" in my correspondence with Dawnay. I don't like holding out on Dawnay, for he is doing good work and deserves trust, but if Joesten gets hold of this there is no telling where he will take it.

If you can add data on ^{description of} Beckham, I would appreciate it-- especially I would like to know whether he speaks with an accent, and if so, is it a German accent. Also other stuff that you think may be relevant. I thought of asking Garrison about Beckham, but Garrison doesn't know me and there is no reason why he should bother to answer my questions without a prior explanation why I want the information. Perhaps you can get it from Garrison.

I am using the names Toronto Ray, London Ray, Memphis Ray, and the like because I wish to leave open the possibility that each of the various Rays is a different man, and that none of them is James Earl Ray-- not even the man in custody in Memphis. I suspect that that is the case.

Still,

Dick

e.g. is he a
dope addict?

Here is what Gary Murr says in his 11 Sept 68 letter to me; transcribed exactly as it appears):

with a few irrelevant changes.

About the Ray thing. I've talked to Sprague and Gough and am sorry but can tell you practically nothing for now. I can say that the Toront Ray does not match the description of London Ray. Also I will say that some definite recognition of Frenchy was shown on the part of some witnesses involved. I'm sorry but that's all I can really tell you at this time. Trent and Sprague intend to turn everything over to Ray's lawyer once they see the trial started and the path Ray's lawyer is going to take. Also, Sprage told me that he believes Frenchy shows up in some NBC video-tape taken in the L.A. kitchen moments after Robert Kennedy was shot. He wouldn't elaborate any further than that for now though. Gough did verify this for me and said that they had some other leads on the Frenchy thing.